

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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## FACTSHEET

# Non-hunted Wildlife Program

### Managing Non-hunted Wildlife

Despite efforts of those who care for wild animals, Washington's wildlife is losing habitat at an alarming rate. During the 10 year period through 1974 over 2,610,000 acres was put into some use detrimental to the wild inhabitants. Black-logging covers food producing areas, drainage eliminates wet areas, dams flood game range and block fish movements; in fact most human improvement is "disimprovement" where wildlife is concerned.

Some of man's activities threaten permanent destruction of critical wildlife habitats. These critical habitats are irreplaceable. Where it is possible, the non-game program will acquire and manage these areas for specific birds, mammals, fish, reptiles or amphibians. Species and habitats will be selected on the basis of inventories now being conducted.

The game department is managing about 800,000 acres of land for wildlife-oriented recreation. Although farming on these areas may be directed primarily to benefit game species, most other wildlife also benefits from efforts to keep the area undeveloped.

The game department's non-game wildlife management program will be directed toward improving habitat for threatened species, developing recreation areas for the public, protecting and providing for Washington's 536 non-hunted species and developing educational and urban wildlife opportunities.



## Natural Wildlife Areas

The Department of Game currently manages these areas especially for non-hunted wildlife;

Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Wildlife Area: The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Game worked together to establish one of the nation's largest state owned bald eagle natural wildlife areas. The 1000 acre area, located on the Skagit River between Rockport and Marblemount contains vital wintering habitat.

Protection Island: This fifty acre site on Protection Island, west of Port Townsend, is one of the last nesting colonies of rhinoceros auklets in Washington.

Vaux Swift Sanctuary: Swifts roost in the chimney of an unused ice manufacturing plant in Klickitat County.

Chambers Creek Environmental Study Area: Located in Pierce County, the area includes public facilities at the South Tacoma Game Farm and fish hatchery. Bird watching is popular in the area.

Breazeale Wildlife Sanctuary: Sixty wooded Acres with water frontage in Skagit County were given to the department to maintain as a public non-hunted wildlife area.

Nellie Corser Natural Wildlife Area: This area in Skamania County includes hiking trails and a stream.

New Acquisitions: Several new tracts were recently donated to the department to maintain and manage as non-hunted wildlife areas. The new acquisitions are the Corson Natural Area near Marysville and tracts in Snohomish County and Sinclair Island. Management plans are being developed for these sites.

## Gathering Resource Information

Baseline information gathered from the Washington Game Department studies will determine future management policies for a great variety of wildlife. One of the first projects in the department's wide ranging program, funded by monies from personalized license plate sales, was a status study of uncommon birds. Based at the University of Washington, a research team of graduate students completed a two year investigation of sea birds, shore birds and eagles. Besides providing previously unknown life history information this study compiled an inventory of most existing bald eagle sites in Washington.

A similar project was instituted at Washington State University, where a team of graduate students completed a status survey of the gray squirrel, ferruginous hawk and the blue birds.

By the first of January, 1978, the game department will have a total of nine technical people working in the non-game program, pursuing problems of preservation, research and management.

In a cooperative effort with the Department of Ecology, the game department conducted a marine shoreline investigation that yielded a list of 24 potentially threatened wildlife species related to that environment. The game department is also cooperating with the Nature Conservancy in a plan called the "Washington Natural Heritage Program."

This intensive study, covering identification of lands, natural systems and wildlife, will inventory these subjects with the aid of data processing methods.

The Washington non-game program plan includes an ambitious series of exciting proposals of wildlife-oriented studies, acquisitions and management,